


21. Tanner, *Theories of Culture*, 58, but not writing about the study of ancient Christianity.


23. The author of the Acts of the Apostles says that the followers of Jesus were first called Christians in Antioch while Saul (Paul) was teaching there (Acts 11:26). But this claim is difficult to square with Paul’s own letters.


26. Ibid., 80.


31. Ibid., 51.


33. Ibid., 246.

34. For outstanding examples of such, see her *Secret Revelation of John and The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman Apostle* (Santa Rosa, Calif.: Polebridge, 2003).


2. Identifying the Gnostics and Their Literature


3. 1 Clement 36:2; 48:5; see also 40:1; 41:4.

4. Barnabar 19:1; see also 5:4; 9:8.

6. Irenaeus, Against Heresies 1.11.1. Henceforth I will cite this work as AH parenthetically in the text.
7. Tertullian, Scorpice 1; On the Soul 18.
10. Ibid., 1.13.58.2; 4.4.17.4.
11. Ibid., 3.4.30.1.
12. Tertullian, Against Praxeas 3; Scorpice 15.
13. Porphyry, Life of Plotinus 16.
15. Layton, “Prolegomena.”
17. Williams, Rethinking “Gnosticism,” 235–262.

33. Hippolytus, The Refutation of All Heresies 5.2; 5.6.4; 5.8.29; 5.11.1.
34. Ibid., 5.6.3–4.
35. Ibid., 5.9.22; 5.8.29.
36. Ibid., 5.23.3.

3. The Myth and Rituals of the Gnostic School of Thought

2. The origin of the name Barbelo is obscure, but it might derive from Egyptian words for “emission” and “great”—thus, “the great emission” (Bentley Layton, The Gnostic Scriptures: A New Translation with Annotations and Introductions [Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1987], 15).